In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes

shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a card rack; and

two or more server node cards ~~coupled to~~ <u>mounted on</u> the card rack, each server node

card including:

a server ~~node~~ to perform ~~server functions with~~ integrated switching, routing, load

balancing, and fail-over functions; and

a plurality of ports ~~coupled with each server node,~~ <u>wherein at least one port to</u>

<u>directly connect to another server node card in the card rack and at least one port to</u>

<u>connect to an external connection to another card rack including other server node cards;</u>

<u>and</u>

<u>an interface card mounted on the card rack separate from the two or more server node</u>

<u>cards, the interface card to provide the external connection to the another card rack and to</u>

<u>provide a connection to an external network, wherein the interface card to connect to each of the</u>

<u>server node cards in the card rack via interconnections to at least one of the ports of each of the</u>

<u>server node cards.</u>

2.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the server node card <u>and the</u>

<u>interface card each</u> comprise[[s]] a single printed circuit board.

3.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, where the plurality of ports comprises four

ports.

4.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the printed circuit board is rack

mountable and the plurality of ports are accessible as connection points on the card rack.

5.   (Currently Amended) A server block comprising:

a plurality of server node[[s]] cards, each server node card including:

a server ~~with~~ to perform integrated switching, routing, load balancing and fail-

over functions; ~~and~~

a plurality of ports, at least one port of the plurality of ports configured to directly

connect to another server node card and at least one port ~~of the plurality of ports~~

configured ~~for~~ to connect[[ion]] to an external ~~network~~ connection to another server

block including a plurality of other server node cards; and

a plurality of signal paths ~~connected with~~ to couple the plurality of ports ~~of the~~

~~server nodes, at least two of the plurality of ports of each server node connected~~ with the

another server node card and with the external connection; and ~~of the plurality of server~~

~~nodes in the server block.~~

an interface card mounted on the server block separate from the server node cards, the

interface card to provide the external connection to the another server block and to provide a

connection to an external network, wherein the interface card to connect to each of the server

node cards in the server block via interconnections to at least one of the ports of each of the

server node cards.

6.   (Currently Amended) The server block if claim 5, wherein each said server node card ~~of~~

~~the plurality of server nodes~~ and the interface card each comprise[[s]] one printed circuit board.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The server block of claim 6, wherein the printed circuit board is rack mountable and the plurality of ports of each server node are accessible as connection points on the card rack, and the server block is constructed in one card rack by interconnecting the connection points on the card rack.

8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of server blocks wherein each server block comprises:

a plurality of server nodes, each server node including:

a server ~~with~~ to perform integrated switching, routing, load balancing, and fail-over functions; ~~and~~

plurality of ports, at least two ports of the plurality of ports configured to directly connect to at least two other server nodes of the plurality of server nodes in the server block and at least one port configured to provide an external connection to another server block including a plurality of other server node cards; ~~and~~

plurality of signal paths to connected ~~with~~ the plurality of ports with the other server nodes and with the another server block ~~of each server node, at least one signal path connected with each server node of the plurality of server nodes providing an external connection to a server block, and at least two signal paths connected with each server node of the plurality of server nodes being connected with other server nodes of the plurality of server nodes in the block~~; and

plurality of signal paths connected with the server blocks, at least one signal path connected with each server block ~~of the plurality of server blocks~~ to provide ~~providing~~ an

external connection to the network, and at least two signal paths connected with each

server block ~~of the plurality of server blocks being~~ to connect[[ed]] with other server

blocks of the plurality of server blocks; and

an interface card mounted on the server block separate from the server nodes, the

interface card to provide the external connection to the another server block and to provide the

external connection to the network, wherein the interface card to connect to each of the server

nodes in the server block via interconnections to at least one of the ports of each of the server

nodes.

10.   (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim 9, wherein each server node ~~of the~~

~~plurality of server nodes~~ and the interface card each comprise[[s]] one printed circuit board.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The computer network of claim 10, wherein the printed

circuit board is rack mountable and the plurality of ports of each server node are accessible as

connection points on the card rack, and a server block is constructed in one card rack by

interconnecting the connection points on the card rack.

12.-20. (Cancelled)

21.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein to perform routing functions further includes:

receiving a request at the server node card;

determining whether to service the request; and

if unable to service the request, routing the request to another server node card coupled

with the server node card in the card rack.

22.   (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein to perform load balancing functions further includes:

    determining the present load of one or more other server node cards coupled with the server node card in the card rack; and

    routing the request to a server node card of the one or more other server node cards with the smallest load.

23.   (New) The server block of claim 5, wherein to perform routing functions further includes:

    receiving a request at the server node card;

    determining whether to service the request; and

    if unable to service the request, routing the request to another server node card coupled with the server node card in the server block.

24.   (New) The server block of claim 23, wherein to perform load balancing functions further includes:

    determining the present load of one or more other server node cards coupled with the server node card in the server block; and

    routing the request to a server node card of the one or more other server node cards with the smallest load.

25.   (New) The computer system of claim 9, wherein to perform routing functions further includes:

    receiving a request at the server node;

    determining whether to service the request; and

if unable to service the request, routing the request to another server node coupled with the server node in the server block.

26.   (New) The computer system of claim 25, wherein to perform load balancing functions further includes:

determining the present load of one or more other server nodes coupled with the server node in the server block; and

routing the request to a server node of the one or more other server nodes with the smallest load.